

**METHOD, APPARATUS AND SYSTEM FOR BLACK SEGMENT  
DETECTION**

**ABSTRACT**

5 The present invention provides a method, apparatus and system for detecting  
black segments and selecting a dark area in film or digital images. The present invention  
identifies one or more areas having a substantially uniform gray level within the digital  
image, determining an effective darkness value for each identified area, and selects the  
dark area corresponding to the identified area having the highest effective darkness value.  
10 The gray level of the dark area can then be used as the black level in a normalization  
process.